



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FERNANDO BATISTA DE LA CRUZ SENTENCED  
FOR POSSESSION OF COCAINE WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE**

United States Attorney Anthony J. Jenkins announced that Fernando Batista De La Cruz, 36, of the Dominican Republic was sentenced today in Federal District Court for the Virgin Islands, to 108 months incarceration and five years of supervised release which begins after De La Cruz completes serving his term of incarceration.

Charges were filed against De La Cruz on February 14, 2002, after the boat De La Cruz piloted was stopped by an official of the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources for taking undersized spiny lobsters. De La Cruz was arrested for that infraction and during an inventory of the boat, the officers observed that the bottom on two of the four gas tanks onboard the boat was broken. As the officers performed a closer inspection of the two gas tanks, 30 bricks of cocaine fell from the bottom.

United States Attorney Jenkins credits the success of this investigation to the cooperative efforts of the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources Marine Unit, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the United States Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).